The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

## WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

Entered as second-class matter September 10, 1917, at the Postoffice at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

VOL. 7. NO. 13. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 1917. WHOLE NO. 325.

## "FREEDOM FOR ALL" IS DUNCAN'S GUIDE

Washington, June 23.—President Gompers has forwarded this cablegram to James Duncan, first vice president A. F. of L., and member of the special diplomatic mission of the United States, now in Petrograd:

"Cablegrams from Petrograd published in American newspapers of June 11 contain information that a conference has been called at Petrograd to consider advisability of calling a congress of socialistic bodies and federations of trade unions of the world. The credential issued to you by executive council, American Federation of Labor, authorizes you to participate in such conference, and if invited, you are advised to accept and participate. The American Federation of Labor is the most democratically organized and controlled labor movement in the world, and of course you will insist upon acceptance of fundamental principles of democracy for every country; also the necessity for all the peoples of each country, large and small, to live their own lives and work out their own destiny. The cause for which America entered the war was to safeguard these principles and much as we desire peace, no false notions should prevail. The world cannot longer endure half autocracy and half democracy; either the one or the other will prevail and American labor is in the fight for the destruction of autocracy and for the victorious universal establishment and maintenance of democracy."

### WOMEN'S LAW UPHELD.

Denver, June 23.—Deputy State Labor Commissioner Morrisey has refused to be stampeded by the "shortage of labor" cry and has notified employers in this state that the women's eight-hour law will not be suspended.

The state official says:

"This department does not believe that the industrial or economic conditions of the country at this time warrant a suspension of the women's eight-hour law either in Colorado or elsewhere; consequently I am forced to refuse your request for permission to work women employes in your Colorado plant longer than eight hours in any one calendar day.

"All the official statements bearing on industrial conditions given out by the national authorities have frowned upon the idea of 'lowering the standard of living' by suspending the eight-hour statutes, child labor laws and other measures of a humanitarian nature. In the European countries in the first year of the war employers in all lines were given permission to work women long hours and seven days a week, but at the end of the first 12 months' period it was conclusively shown that the productive powers of the workers had greatly decreased and that they were turning out inferior work. In fact, the conditions were such that these countries were more than glad to restore the eight-hour day basis for women workers and also a six-day week."

### UNION SMASHER ASHAMED.

San Francisco, June 23.—The Labor Clarion prints the speech of President Eppinger of the Restaurant association at a banquet in honor of his management of the recent lockout of culinary workers.

Eppinger was not jubilant over his victory and acknowledged that "I have never been able to take the same pride in our achievements in the late unpleasantness."

"I have always felt that the work that we did last year was the poorest sort of work that an association of employers could do.

"In the end you will sit down at the table with labor. Let us seek a victory over ourselves rather than over our employes. Let us seek to create a prosperous level of business by constructive work rather than to bend all our energies to destructive work.

"If restaurant men will act with the same unity of purpose that characterized their attitude in the culinary strike, we will bring about a condition in our business which will be a triumph for our organization."

### STRIKERS ENJOINED.

Bloomington, Ill., June 23.—Striking street car men have been enjoined by Judge Welty, at the request of the Bloomington & Normal Railway and Light company, from "interfering with, hindering or obstructing the company's operations." The strikers are debarred from soliciting the public not to patronize the cars.

Bloomington trade unionists protested against this injunction at one of the largest mass meetings ever held in this city.

The strike was called when the company refused to meet a committee of its employes and discharged workers because they joined the union. The company has a union agreement with employed on its lines in other cities.

### WHAT IS "AN IDLER?"

Springfield, Ill., June 23.—State Senator Dunlap has been badly bitten by the "war efficiency" bug and the senate rushed through to its second reading, without reference to committee, his bill which provides that every male in Illinois must work at least 36 hours a week or be jailed for 60 days.

The plan is an excellent one to prevent strikes and tie workers to their jobs, but the following provision would be more far reaching than the enthusiastic solon intended:

"Possession of money, property or income sufficient to support himself and those legally dependent upon him shall not be a defense to prosecution."

### HAS WIDE POWERS.

Boston, June 23.—The state legislature has conferred upon the governor wide powers during the war period. He may take possession of any land, buildings, machinery, equipment, fuel, cattle or other provisions which he deems necessary for the use of the military or naval forces of this state. He may sell or distribute without cost to the people any thing included in the above list and may fix minimum prices therefor. A reasonable compensation will be given owners of the property seized.

### ACTIVE IN OREGON.

Oregon City, Ore., June 23.—President Hartwig of the state federation of labor has organized 750 paper mill workers at this place. It was necessary to suspend work in one of the mills for a week before the management accepted the new order of things.

### IRON MOLDERS WIN.

Bay City, Mich., June 23.—After a four-months' strike iron molders have raised wages to $4 a day and secured the reinstatement of all strikers, despite an injunction.

## WHAT IS SEA POWER? ASKS LABOR EDITOR

San Francisco, June 23.—America can secure power on the high seas by simply waving a magician's wand.

This seems to be the basis of yards of stuff written by men who occasionally venture on an excursion steamer and then pose as maritime authority.

The latest fulmination by one of this class has been noticed by Editor Scharrenberg of the Coast Seamen's Journal and this genuine sailorman says:

"'Sea Power' is the name of a monthly magazine now in its second year of publication at Washington, D. C. The current issue of that misnamed periodical advocates the modification of our 'restrictive navigation laws' so as to permit aliens 'to command and officer our new mercantile fleet.'

"Under our present alleged 'restrictive navigation laws' American ships are not required to carry any Americans, except the master and licensed officers. The rest of the crew may be, and frequently is, composed of aliens, and non-English-speaking aliens at that.

"Now this illustrious Washington authority on sea power proposes that American licensed officers should be made to compete with the ships' officers of the world at large.

"What hope is there for genuine American sea power when a man who edits a paper bearing that very name has not the faintest conception of its true meaning?

"Sea power has never been in ships alone. Sea power is in the men who man the nation's ships. It is reflected in a maritime national spirit that insists upon the elimination of coolie labor aboard ship. It is manifested in fair treatment and preference for native seamen. Any other course is unthinkable to men with a remote knowledge of sea power in history. To urge the manning of American ships by aliens is the first step toward strangulation of sea power's very essence."

### WAGES IS SMALL FACTOR.

Washington, June 23.—In opposing the proposed 15 per cent freight increase to railroads, Clifford Thorne, chief counsel for the shippers, told the interstate commerce commission that "the increase in wages due to the Adamson law amounts to 1.85 per cent of the railroads' total revenue," and that "the day after the United States supreme court sustained the law these railroads asked an increase of 15 per cent in freight revenue.

"In the midst of one of their most prosperous years the carriers are trying to force an added tax on the public in the name of patriotism. As Mr. Patterson of the Pennsylvania railroad pronounces that word I can hear the jingle of the dollar," he said.

Trade unionists say that the railroads are giving shippers a poor reward for the latter's undivided opposition to the eight-hour demand of the railroad brotherhoods. The shippers were a tower of strength to the railroads in that fight and these business men now find themselves deserted by the very men they fought for.

### INDORSE LEVER BILL.

Fargo, N. D., June 23.—The Lever food control bill, now pending in congress, is indorsed by the Daily Courier-News, controlled by the Farmers' Nonpartisan league, which swept this state at the last election. This paper says the farmers generally know little about Herbert Hoover's attitude toward them, "but they will welcome a change from the power of the exploiter."

"Who can have the hardihood to charge the farmers with lack of patriotism when they demand that what they produce shall go without waste to those for whom it is intended, when they demand that the cheating by dockage, by mixture and by regrading, the juggling and cornering of prices be stopped?

"The farmers want the food control power of the government created without delay. When it is created they will expect to see it used in thorough fashion to stop the robbery of the American people by the food pirates."

### PICKETING BARRED.

Portland, Ore., June 23.—By a referendum vote the people of this city have passed an anti-picketing ordinance which makes it unlawful "to compel or force any person to alter his mode of carrying on his business." The law defines an activity of this character "a conspiracy to injure the trade, business or commerce of any person doing business in the city of Portland."

Hereafter, any attempt to interfere with low wages or poor working conditions will result in a fine of $500 and six months in jail, or both, if the law is strictly enforced. The trade union movement made stout resistence to this proposal, which was advocated by business men who believe that force can silence discontent.

### WAGE LAW UPHELD.

Little Rock, Ark., June 23.—The state supreme court has upheld the Arkansas minimum wage law which provides that inexperienced women employes shall receive not less than $1 a day and after six months the rate shall not be less than $1.25 a day for nine hours. The court said:

"The strength, intelligence and virtue of each generation depends to a great extent upon the mothers. Therefore, the health and morals of the women are a matter of grave concern to the public, and consequently, to the state itself."

### WOMEN IN RAILROAD SHOPS.

Susquehanna, Pa., June 23.—For the first time in the history of the Erie railroad shops at this place, women are being employed to operate drill presses and to work at other mechanical occupations.

Philadelphia, June 23.—The Philadelphia & Reading railroad has opened an employment bureau for women and has already engaged women to replace army and navy recruits.

### HOTEL EMPLOYES MEET.

St. Louis, Mo., June 23.—The convention of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes' International Alliance and Bartenders' International League of America was attended by nearly 300 delegates. The reports of General President Flore and International Secretary Jere L. Sullivan indicate steady progress by these workers. Since the last convention the alliance membership has increased from 61,823 to 65,196.

### AMERICA IS MELTING POT.

Jerome, Ariz., June 23.—The successful mine strike against the United Verde company involved men of 22 nationalities, welded together in trade unionism.

## WILL AMERICA PROFIT BY ENGLAND'S TRIAL?

Boston, June 23.—Will America profit by the bitter experience of England during the first year of the war when that country's workers collapsed through sheer exhaustion, asks Grace Scribner, in a statement issued by the Methodist federation for social service.

When the war broke there was a hysterical demand in England for production, and pressure was brought upon practically every agency of production to speed up to its fullest capacity, she writes.

"Men, women and children worked to the very limit of their endurance. But in a few months the strain began to tell. Strikes began to break out; production was lowered, despite the excessive hours and speed. A thoughtless public accused the workers of 'slacking' and indignantly demanded that they raise no questions concerning hours and wages while the nation's life was in peril.

"But a few of the more thoughtful saw in the nation's unrest something more than a lack of patriotism. And finally the government itself, alarmed by a disastrous shortage of munitions, appointed a special committee to look into conditions among the munitions workers.

"Will America profit by that experience? Or must we travel the same hard road? Many agencies are trying to head off the danger, chief among them the government itself."

The writer insists that the government needs help in maintaining this attitude.

### OPPOSES WAR EXPLOITING.

New York, June 23.—Mayor Mitchel has notified street car companies in this city that they, too, are expected to bear war burdens instead of exploiting the public.

In a letter to President Shonts of the New York Railways company, this city's executive, in opposing increased rates, said:

"We have heard no suggestion that during this temporary period of stress the abnormal present profits of the subway be divided with the public. It is currently reported that the Interborough company has recently declared a quarterly dividend of 5 per cent, thereby placing the company upon a 20 per cent annual dividend basis.

"The whole community, including and not excepting the street railway companies, must bear the burdens of the present war crisis. Perhaps this will entail a temporarily reduced income, but it seems to me that the New York Railways company may fairly be expected to 'do its bit' and carry its share of the burden with the rest of the country."

In answer to Shonts' plea that increases were necessary to avert bankruptcy, Mayor Mitchel said:

"To my mind it would seem that this appeal for higher rates to avoid bankruptcy is in striking contrast to the attitude of your company at the time of reorganization. The public service commission then sounded notes of warning and endeavored to prevent, to the limit of its authority, the adoption of a financial plan which, in its opinion, was unsound and represented overcapitalization. The public can hardly be blamed because your company paid no heed."

### URGE ASIATIC WAR LABOR.

New York, June 23.—The board of trade and transportation has made public a list of prominent citizens who join with it in advocating Asiatic labor during the war. The list includes former Secretary of the Treasury Shaw, President Butler of Columbia university, President Hadley of Yale university and bankers and business men from various sections of the country who assume to speak for "the people."

The committee states that some persons are against the plan because they are afraid that "the coolies, once in, will be slow to go out."

These fears are declared to be groundless, as it is stated that "there would be no lack of zeal" among officers to deport the Orientals.

Under these conditions it is assumed by the trustful board of trade and transportation that no corporation would hesitate to ship its allotment of Orientals back to their native land when officers of the law give the high sign.

### WIN SHORT STRIKE.

Tacoma, Wash., June 23.—Organized brewery workers employed in the Columbia plant secured a union shop agreement and the eight-hour day with nine-hours' pay after a four-hours' strike.

Los Angeles, Cal., June 23.—Brewery proprietors in this city and vicinity have signed an agreement with the Brewery Workers' unions which includes all classes of workers. Shop conditions are bettered and wages are increased 10 and 20 per cent.

St. Paul, Minn., June 23.—Wages have been increased $2 a week and a three-year agreement secured by the Brewery Workers' union of this city.

### DODGE WAR PROFIT TAX.

Washington, June 23.—Government agents have discovered that some war munitions makers are not satisfied with extraordinary profits and have been dodging the 12½ per cent tax on their profits. It is stated that these evasions run into the millions of dollars. One of the methods adopted to reduce profits was to charge off as expenses large portions of the profits on the ground that the plants will be worthless when the war ends. Internal revenue agents say that after the war the factories can be utilized in other ways and will by no means be a total loss.

### WINNING EIGHT HOURS.

Canton, Ohio, June 23.—Machinists' union No. 812 is enforcing its demand for an eight-hour day with 10 hours' pay. In many of the shops, the unorganized have joined with the unionists to improve conditions.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, June 23.—Striking machinists employed by the Manitoba Bridge and Iron Works have returned to work with increased wages.

### RETAIL CLERKS STRIKE.

East St. Louis, Ill., June 23.—A general walkout of retail clerks in this city followed a refusal to raise wages 20 per cent and reduce the hour for closing on Saturday night.

Many of the merchants have since signed the agreement.

### UNORGANIZED STRIKE.

Newton Upper Falls, Mass., June 23.—About 400 unorganized employes of the Gamewell Fire Alarm company suspended work to enforce an eight-hour day and wage increases.

## GOVERNOR PLEADS IN VAIN FOR WOMEN

Springfield, Ill., June 23.—Gov. Lowden's attempt to revive the women's eight-hour bill proved a failure in the senate when the body rejected the proposal.

The state executive sent a special measure to the legislature urging a reduction of hours in this case and called attention to last year's declarations of all political parties for shorter hours for women.

"Clearly, we are committed to legislation which will substantially limit the hours of labor for women employed in industrial pursuits," said Gov. Lowden.

"But it is said that war alters the situation. I submit that if it does alter the situation, it makes this legislation more imperative. England thought at the opening of the war that it was made necessary, because of the war, to increase rather than decrease the number of hours of labor. It has been shown very conclusively by the experience of England that this increase was at the expense of both efficiency and economy.

"The British government last year, after an exhaustive investigation through a very able committee, reached the conclusion that from every standpoint, that of efficiency as well as the health of the women, overtime should be abolished and an eight-hour day established for them. Hence the argument of even temporary necessity fails. Moreover, let us not forget the purpose of this legislation.

"That purpose is to safeguard the future of the nation.

"War must of necessity impair the fatherhood of future generations, doubly important is it then that we take every precaution to protect the mothers of the next generation. I believe that need for legislation limiting the hours of work for women is more imperative than if we were at peace."

### GOVERNOR DODGES.

Bakersfield, Cal., June 23.—The Union Labor Journal takes sharp issue with Governor Stephens, who vetoed the anti-injunction bill, because, he said, "this bill would multiply the difficulties of enforcement as to make practically useless the injunction when applied to violations of the abatement law, to the maintenance of gambling places, to the theft of irrigation water and other cases where, in the enforcement of the law, this process is used."

In reply to this reasoning, the Union Labor Journal says:

"If a person who violates a law dealing with any one of the offenses mentioned by the governor is entitled to a trial by jury, why is not that person entitled to a trial by jury when charged with violating the mandate of a court not to do a certain act of the same nature? Why, Governor Stephens, are the orders of a court so much more sacred than the statutes of this state?

"Nothing in the anti-injunction bill would have prevented a court from issuing an injunction and nothing would have prevented that court from enforcing its orders pending the trial of the issues involved."

### BOILER MAKERS GAIN.

Florence, Col., June 23.—Organized boiler makers employed on oil tanks raised wages after a short strike. The old rate of 53 1-8 cents an hour is increased to 62 1-2 cents, and helpers are raised from 43 3-4 cents to 53 1-8 cents.

Kansas City, Mo., June 23.—In his weekly report International President Franklin of the Brotherhood of Boiler Makers and Iron Ship Builders says:

"Practically all of our officers and representatives are devoting their entire time in negotiating new agreements and wage scales, as this seems to be the order of the day to overcome as far as possible the enormous advance in the cost of living. Many of our members have been able to secure very material increases and earnings. There never was a greater demand for organizers."

### SHOP MEN RAISE WAGES.

Columbus, Ohio, June 23.—Federated shop men employed by the Hocking Valley railroad have pried this management loose from wage standards that have been notoriously low and secured an agreement that raises wages 4 cents an hour for all mechanics.

St. Louis, Mo., June 23.—The system federation of the Wabash railroad has secured an agreement for a flat increase of 5 cents an hour and the eight-hour day.

Toronto, Ontario, Canada, June 23.—Federated shop men on the western division of the Canadian Pacific railroad have secured a new agreement and raised wages 6 cents an hour.

### PATRIOTISM DEFINED.

Indianapolis, June 23.—The United Mine Workers' Journal suggests this lesson on patriotism to a certain class of American employers:

"Patriotism requires personal sacrifice, and the workers ever have and will be among the foremost in laying their all upon the altar of their country's needs. But it does not necessarily follow that they cannot recognize a move on the part of those who have ever striven to degrade their conditions to that of the chattel slave of old to turn the country's necessities to their own advantage."

### MINERS RAISE WAGES.

Seattle, Wash., June 23.—Representatives of the United Mine Workers, district No. 10, and the Washington Coal Operators' association have agreed on a new wage scale, which includes an advance of 50 cents a day for labor, specified and unspecified, except miners, timbermen and track layers, who will be paid $4.49 a day. Many employes are increased 60 cents a day and proportionate raises are granted to other classes of workers.

### LABOR MUST BE ALERT.

Lafayette, Ind., June 23.—"We must be alert and diligent to see that war-time wages keep pace with war-time prices," is the advice of the Painter and Decorator, official magazine of the Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators.

### SIGNS LOAN SHARK BILL.

Springfield, Ill., June 23.—Governor Lowden has signed the Hicks loan shark bill, limiting the rate of interest on salary and chattel loans of less than $300 to 3 1-2 per cent a month.

### BOSTON BARBERS STRIKE.

Boston, June 23.—Several hundred organized barbers have suspended work to enforce a wage scale of $16 a week and half of the receipts over $21.

## PRINT PAPER PANIC OR CONTROL BY U. S.

Washington, June 23.—Announcing failure of its plan to relieve the news print paper situation and predicting a panic crisis unless the government steps in, the federal trade commission has asked congress to authorize a government pooling scheme to insure both an equitable distribution of the product to consumers and a fair profit to manufacturers. Under the plan of producing the commission states that its efforts to restore competitive conditions in this industry and to arbitrate and to effectively project a fair price for news print paper have failed, and as a war emergency it is urged that congress pass laws that would provide these plants to be operated on government account and a federal agency established to set a fair price and to effect fair distribution. The Canadian government would be asked to create a similar agency to act jointly with officials in this country in distributing the big Canadian output. If such a Canadian agency were not created, all importations into the United States would be under government supervision.

In its report, the commission indicates as follows the enormous profits to news print paper manufacturers:

"The consumption of news print paper in the United States in 1916 amounted to about 1,775,000 net tons, valued at more than $70,000,000. At the prices now prevailing this tonnage will cost news print consumers in 1917 more than $105,000,00, an increase of $35,000,000, or 50 per cent. Most of this increase will fall upon newspaper publishers. If the average increase in cost of manufacture in 1917 over 1916 is estimated at $10 per ton, which is liberal, one-half of the $35,000,000 increase in paper cost represents additional profits to the manufacturers."

### POISONING IN MUNITIONS.

Washington, June 23.—The federal bureau of labor statistics has issued a bulletin (No. 219) on industrial poisons used in the manufacture of explosives. The 41 factories visited employ 90,000 workers, of which one-third were exposed to poisons.

It is stated that it was impossible to obtain accurate figures as to the amount of sickness and death since the war started. Many cases were never recognized; in some factories there was either no medical care or it was inadequate, and in other plants records were so incomplete "as to render the data somewhat misleading."

Based, however, upon physicians' reports only, although information as to other cases was obtained, it was found that in 28 plants, in the space of about one year, there was 2,507 cases of industrial poisoning, in which 75 were women. Of the total number of cases 53 were fatal, two of them being women.

The report states that "the character of the work required" leads to a very high labor turnover. One plant reported that it was necessary to employ about 4,000 men during 13 months to keep up a force of 200. On the whole, wages are high and living conditions poor in many of those places.

### WANT 20 PER CENT RAISE.

New York, June 23.—The International Ladies' Garment Workers' union has asked its organized employers to raise wages 20 per cent.

Although an agreement is in force between the two parties, the unionists say:

"With a raise of about 30 per cent in all necessaries of life, the wage increase will not even restore the workers to the living conditions which prevailed at the date of the present agreement, but will leave them considerably below that level, particularly as we have every reason to expect that living expenses will continue to increase.

"The situation presents a contingency which neither your association nor our union could foresee or deal with when we entered into our agreement, and calls for broadminded and reasonable action on the part of both of us."

### STATE UNIONISTS TO MEET.

Paterson, N. J., June 23.—Officers of the state federation of labor have issued a call for the thirty-ninth annual convention to be held in this city next August. The call says:

"We are expected not alone to pay our share in taxes, but give our services to our country, and we do so without protest, but we do object most strenuously to the abrogation or suspension of any law enacted in the interest of the toilers for the benefit of any clique that can only see in this present situation a chance for large profits by the exploitation of the workers, therefore it is essential both to help the government to the best of our ability, and also prevent the exploitation of labor for the benefit of a few, that every union in this state should be represented."

### WON'T WORK ON FARMS.

Boston, June 23.—The government suspended the literacy test of the Burnett immigration law and admitted 250 Portuguese from Cape Verde Islands but these immigrants have refused to work on farms. They came here, they say, to work in munitions factories for $3 and $4 a day, and if they don't get those jobs—no farm life for them.

In the meantime the Portuguese are guests of Uncle Sam.

### LAWSON A LABOR AGENT.

Denver, June 23.—John R. Lawson, former international board member of the United Mine Workers, is now labor agent for the Victor American Fuel company, which recently signed an agreement with the miners' organization.

During the 1913-14 strike in southern Colorado the Victor American opposed the miners.

### HINT ON H. C. OF L.

Georgetown, Del., June 23.—Strawberry growers in this locality are receiving from 75 cents to $1.25 for a 32-quart crate of berries which cost them $1.09 to deliver to the railroad station.

In Washington, D. C., these berries are retailed for 15 cents a quart or $4.80 a crate.

### WON'T STOP HANGINGS.

Springfield, Ill., June 23.—Bungling work in drawing up the bill to stop hangings in this state has caused Gov. Lowden to veto the measure on the advice of the state attorney general.

### TEAMSTERS MAKE GAINS.

Tacoma, Wash., June 23.—Teamsters' union has secured a one-year contract with the Team Owners' association. The union shop and increased wages are agreed to.

## UNCLE SAM DODGES PROFITEER'S TRAP

Cincinnati, June 23.—"A number of associations of manufacturers are endeavoring to use the condition of war for the purpose of more effectively carrying on their union-smashing campaigns," writes John P. Frey, editor of the International Molders' Journal.

"We have secured the most definite information indicating that certain manufacturers, under the guise of patriotism, have endeavored to prevail upon the government to lend its assistance in breaking strikes which have been in progress for some time.

"One gentleman, a prominent character in the Metal Trades association in one of our large industrial centers, recently sent a communication to the government as a representative of the group of employers in the industry in which he is connected. In substance this communication contained profuse expressions of loyalty to the government and expressed the desire to be of service to the government in every possible way, including the production of war supplies.

"The joker was incorporated in the closing paragraph of the communication, which stated that a strike had been in progress in this industry for some time, and that the group of employers would be unable to render full service in the production of munitions for the government should the government fail to lend assistance in breaking the strike.

"It is gratifying to report that the government was not misled in this case, and, instead of lending its assistance to break the strike, the patriotic gentlemen found it necessary to enter into an agreement which provided for a wage scale considerably above that which they had paid previous to the strike, namely the scale paid in the same vicinity in all union establishments."

### COMPULSORY LIABILITY.

Springfield, Ill., June 23.—The legislature has amended the workmen's compensation law by making compensation compulsory for employers, instead of optional.

In a special message to the legislature, in which he urged this amendment, Governor Lowden said:

"There is no reason that I can discover why all employers should not be brought by law under the jurisdiction of this board. Personal injury litigation had come to take up a large proportion of the time of our courts. Experience has shown that of all the moneys collected for injured employes in this manner, something like half has gone for legal expenses of the plaintiff alone. When you add to this the vast expense incurred by the defendant, it is seen how wasteful and profligate is this method of ascertaining one factor in the cost of production.

"If like wasteful methods were applied to the other factors in the cost of production, industry would cease. This is a time when such waste must be eliminated from the machinery of production."

### LONGSHOREMEN WIN.

Buffalo, N. Y., June 23.—Organized tugmen and sand and gravel workers in this port have won their strike and increased wages in some cases to $22.50 a month.

Package Freight Handlers' union, affiliated with the International Longshoremen's association, has raised wages 10 cents an hour.

Detroit, Mich., June 23.—An agreement has been reached between the Dredge Owners' Protective association and affiliates of the International Longshoremen's association. Dredge employes reduced hours from 12 to eight per day, surface rock workers secured a 12 per cent wage increase, scow men are raised $15 a month with an increase of $7.50 a month in board money, and licensed tugmen working under an eight-hour day, received an increase of $17.50 a month and an increase of $7.50 a month in board money. Tug firemen are increased $15 a month and similar board money increases.

### CARPENTERS CONTINUE GAINS

Indianapolis, June 23.—General Secretary Duffy of the Brotherhood of Carpenters reports these recent gains by affiliates:

Peoria, Ill., wages increased from 60 70 cents an hour; the union shop. Nine towns in lower anthracite fields, Pennsylvania, wages increased from 37 to 45 cents an hour. Ennis, Tex., 45 to 50 cents an hour. Quincy, Ill., 50 to 55 cents and the Saturday half holiday. Evansville, Ind. (mill), 2 1-2 cents increase. Omaha, Neb., from 50 to 52 1-2 cents, May 1; 55 cents, August 1; 57 1-2 cents, November 1, and 60 cents from May 1, 1918, for at least one year. Miles City, Mont., from 62 1-2 to 75 cents. Bremerton, Wash., from $4.50 to $5 a day.

### STREET CAR STRIKE ENDS.

Springfield, Mo., June 23.—Street Car Men's union No. 691 has won its strike against the Springfield Traction company after 252 days of industrial warfare. Wages are increased, seniority rights guaranteed and no discrimination is promised by the company. The strike was waged with unusual vigor and the police records tell its story of methods used by imported strikebreakers and thugs who attempted to terrify the unionists.

### WIN LONG STRIKE.

Philadelphia, June 23.—Cigarmakers' union No. 165 has won an eight months' strike against the Theobold & Oppenheimer plant. The union is recognized, shop conditions improved, no discrimination promised and wages raised 50 cents and $1 per 1,000 cigars.

### DOCK BUILDERS STRIKE.

Baltimore, June 23.—Organized dock builders and pile drivers employed at Sparrows Point are on strike for an eight-hour day and 50 cents an hour. The old rate is 32 1-2 cents for a 10-hour day.

### PLASTERERS ADVANCE.

Wichita, Kan., June 23.—Every contracting plasterer in this city but one has accepted the new wage scale of Plasterers' union. Rates are increased 12 1-2 cents an hour and the 44-hour week is included.

### RETAIL CLERKS UNITE.

Beaver Falls, Pa., June 23.—About 100 retail clerks in this city and vicinity have organized a union and will affiliate with the Retail Clerks' International Protective association.

### FREIGHT HANDLERS GAIN.

Boston, June 23.—After a short strike, organized dock freight handlers have raised wages 25 cents a day.

## CHICAGO TEACHERS REGAIN POSITIONS

Chicago, June 23.—Policemen ejected Jacob E. Loeb from headquarters of the local board of education after he was defeated for the office of president of that body.

Chicago, June 23.—By a vote of 14 to 5 the Chicago board of education has voted to reinstate 68 teachers dropped last June. The list includes officers of the teachers' federation. The board had previously passed a rule against trade unionism among the teachers, proposed by President Loeb. Opposition to unions and resistance to salary cuts by the teachers and their refusal to support an educational vocational bill that would only apply to workers' children aroused opponents of this militant organization of teachers, and the Loeb rule was adopted to crush it.

The teachers carried their fight to the state supreme court, which ruled that the board has the right to refuse to employ any one belonging to a trade union. The teachers then withdrew from the Chicago federation of labor and started a movement to secure reinstatement by having the board reverse itself. While the teachers, as an organization, withdrew from the trade union movement because of necessity, the organized workers stuck by them in their fight for justice. Before the final vote, President Loeb, author of the anti-union rule, arose in his purity and hinted of "deals" with union labor and city aldermen.

Member Holpuch, one of the five who opposed reinstatement, was likewise suspicious because his colleagues would not favor a starvation policy against women who believe in unity.

Then for good measure the board raised the salary of Superintendent of Schools Shoop, who recommended the teachers for re-appointment last year, but was defeated when 68 of them were dismissed.

### WON'T PLAY FAVORITES.

Seattle, Wash., June 23.—Mayor Gill has notified the Seattle Electric company that it can expect no aid from the police department in its battle with jitney bus men. In a letter to the company, the mayor says:

"Not even you would pretend that this fight is being made for the general public's benefit; it is entirely a company affair, and in my opinion the company should employ its own people to get evidence and then go to the prosecuting attorney. In regard to your suggestion that I cause the police officers to require the operators of the vehicles to produce their authority for operating upon the streets of Seattle, your legal staff will tell you that I have no such right, in the first instance. You might as well say that I had the right to compel each of your employes to show me authority for your company to operate whenever I felt like it.

"In order that there may be no misunderstanding, so far as I am concerned, the police force in the future, as in the past, will do its best to try to prevent violations of ordinance provisions by machines, whether operated by jitney men, traction magnates or any one else; but so far as expecting the city police force to redress the real or imaginary legal wrongs accruing to your company through the operation of a statute passed by the state legislature, I am unable to comply with your request."

### LIVING COSTS IN ENGLAND

Washington, June 23.—In response to an inquiry as to present day living costs in England, Sir Cecil Arthur Spring-Rice, English ambassador to this country, wrote Congressman Graham that his best information to date was that potatoes (old crop) were selling at a maximum of $2.10 a bushel; cured bacon about 48 cents a pound, and flour, $8.20 a barrel. This means that the cost of potatoes and flour in America are about twice the cost in England.

In commenting on these figures, Congressman Graham said:

"Imagine, if you can, the position of a man who has a family of three or four growing children to support and educate and a salary of $2 a day to keep them on. Do you say that there are not many such cases? There are millions of them."

### MINERS ON WAR BOARD.

Washington, June 23.—The following trade unionists have been added to the committee on coal production, council of national defense: President White, Vice President Hayes, Secretary-Treasurer Green and Chief Statistician Lewis of the United Mine Workers; President Lord of the mining department, A. F. of L.; John Mitchell, chairman New York state industrial commission, and James Kerwin, secertary to Secretary Wilson of the federal department of labor. The United Mine Workers protested against the one-sided make-up of the committee on coal production and certain rules of the committee which, it is now believed will be modified.

### BUILDING LOCKOUT ENDS.

Peoria, Ill., June 23.—Carpenters' union No. 183 has defeated the Carpenter Contractors' association which locked out these workers because they refused to sign an objectionable contract. Wages are increased to 70 cents an hour and several working conditions are improved. The lockout affected the entire building industry in this city.

### WANT 48-HOUR WEEK.

Philadelphia, June 23.—Wool and Carpet Yarn Workers' union No. 825, the largest affiliate of the United Textile Workers, is demanding a 48-hour week. About 2,500 employes are involved, although suspension of work would be most far-reaching, as this is one of the basic branches of the textile industry.

### 203 JOIN UNION.

Wellston, Ohio, June 23.—Organizers Best and Sexton of the Cigarmakers' International union organized blast furnace workers at this place. Two hundred and three workers signed the application for an A. F. of L. local union charter.

### UNIONISTS LOCKED OUT.

Girard, Ohio, June 23.—The A. M. Byers company discharged officers of the newly-formed union affiliated with the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers. Fellow unionists suspended work as a result.

### MINES PAY BIG PROFITS.

Spokane, Wash., June 23.—Seventeen mining companies in the northwest have paid $7,128,[illegible] in dividends during the first half of 1917. This is the greatest record these properties have ever made.

## SENATE ENDANGERS FOOD CONTROL BILL

New York, June 23.—A poll by the New York World indicates that the Lever food control bill, intended to check speculation in food staples, will have strong opposition in the United States senate. The newspaper's poll shows that 54 senators favor the measure, 19 oppose and 20 are non-committal. With this force ready to take advantage of extended discussion permitted in the senate, it will be easy, if public opinion is not developed, to delay action until the middle of the summer, when the law will prove ineffective because speculators will then have cornered the food market.

Washington, June 23.—On the plan to give the president authority to control the food supply of the nation, United States Senator Reed of Missouri made vigorous objection in the senate last week. H. C. Hoover, the proposed food administrator, was ridiculed and referred to as "the man that the president proposed to substitute for the constitution of the United States.

Senator Sheppard of Texas suggested that "it may be necessary to confer this power in order that the mother may have something on which to feed her babies."

Senator Reed indicated his disapproval of much of the high cost of living agitation by answering his Texas colleague:

"But has that time come?"

Senator Reed also inferred that food gamblers and speculators do not now tell housewives what to eat, as he protested against any "dictator" who would "enter every home in this land and tell the housewife how much bread she may set before the children."

Senator Smith of Michigan contributed to the work of defeating the bill by ridicule. He said:

"Those are the rules of a county poor farm."

The senators did not discuss forces in this country which have raised living costs and made the food control bill necessary. It is clear that much senate opposition to the bill will consist of Fourth of July orations about "freemen who have wasted the heritage of liberty bequeathed them by heroic sires."

### LIVING COSTS SOAR.

Washington, June 23.—Food prices advanced 32 per cent between April 15, 1916, and April 16, 1917, reports the federal bureau of labor statistics.

Potatoes were 146 per cent higher on April 16, 1917, than on April 15, 1916, and onions were 179 per cent higher. Beans advanced 79 per cent and flour 72 per cent. Between March 15 and April 16 of this year flour, bacon and potatoes advanced 18, 15, and 14 per cent respectively.

The report shows that the retail price of a barrel of flour in the District of Columbia was $15.28 on May 3 last. It is possible to make 327 pounds of bread dough out of this flour, and the market price of 327 pounds of bread had advanced to $27.14. On April 16 flour sold for $12.96 a barrel in the district and the price of the 327 pounds of bread was $23.22.

In other words, the difference between the retail price of a barrel of flour in Washington on April 16 and the retail price of the bread from a barrel of flour was $10.26; on May 3 this difference was $11.86 a barrel.

### IOWA UNIONISTS ELECT.

Dubuque, Iowa, June 23.—At the silver jubilee convention of the state federation of labor F. A. Canfield, Lathers' union, Cedar Rapids, was elected president, and Earl C. Willey, Typographical union, Sioux City, secretary-treasurer. Mason City was chosen as the next convention city.

Roanoke, Va., June 23.—Internal differences that have existed in the Virginia state federation of labor were smoothed out at the convention in this city when the unionists agreed that solidarity is all important. As a result the convention was harmonious and enthusiastic. President Doherty urged the greatest possible activity in behalf of a workmen's compensation law. Portsmouth was selected as the next convention city.

### "REGULATOR" IS JEERED.

Springfield, Ill., June 23.—Senator Kirby of Menard county is a farmer who imagined he would immortalize himself with those who have been regulating everybody and everything. About the only thing he found has not been discussed or regulated is the height of heels of women's shoes, and a bill correcting this evil was introduced forthwith, because, he said, "high heels cause more damnation than German submarines."

The efforts of this "regulator" were laughed at by other "regulators," who, with strange inconsistency, declared that this bill should go "to the committee on the insane."

### DEFENDS LABOR LAW.

Washington, June 23. — President Gompers has written to Pennsylvania trade unionists urging them to use their influence with the state law makers to defeat a bill that would repeal the Pennsylvania full crew law.

The A. F. of L. executive calls attention to the declaration of the council of national defense that labor laws should not be repealed except in an emergency which it is the best judge of and that the proposed repealer is unjustifiable.

### LESS HOURS FOR WOMEN.

Columbus, Ohio, June 23.—The women's 50-hour work week will be effective in this state June 20, supplanting the present statute which provides for a 54-hour maximum. The new law was passed by the last legislature and marks another advance by the trade union movement.

### LABOR SHARKS THRIVE.

Houston, Tex., June 23.—The "shortage of labor" cry has been taken advantage of by employment sharks in this city who are charged with receiving $10 from individual workmen who are sent to Oklahoma wheat fields only to find that they have been cheated.

### LOUIS A. SCHWARZ DIES.

Philadelphia, June 23.—Louis A. Schwarz, secretary-treasurer of the International Photo-Engravers' union, died in this city. Deceased was [illegible] years old and for years has been active in the trade union movement.

### KEY MEN WANT MORE.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, June 23.—Members of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers employed by the Canadian Pacific railroad are demanding wage increases that will approximate 25 per cent.